

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/626,234

Examiner

Jimmy H. Nguyen

Applicant(s)

NISHIKUBO ET AL.

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment papers filed on 6/9/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 26 July 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

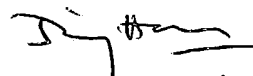
5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached -
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

## Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

  
Jimmy H. NGUYEN  
9/21/04

### REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. Applicant's arguments, see pages 17-32 of the amendment, filed on 6/9/2004, with respect to specification objection, claim objection, the rejections under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, and 35 USC 103(a), in the last Office Action dated 2/10/2004, have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the objections and the rejections in the last Office Action dated 2/10/2004, have been withdrawn.
2. Claims 1-11 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the claimed invention is directed to a source driver for supplying a plurality of gray scale voltages for driving each of liquid crystal pixels required to be AC-driven, such that each said pixel displays a target gray scale level corresponding to a data signal supplied thereto. Independent claims 1, 3 and 7 identify the uniquely distinct feature, "positive-side (high level) resistance division ratios and said negative-side (low level) resistance division ratios of the resistance-type voltage division circuit are set so as to be asymmetrical with one another depending on level shift characteristics respectively associated with each said target gray scale level". Independent claims 2, 4 and 8 identify the uniquely distinct feature, "the resistance division ratios between the respective resistors making up the resistance-type voltage division circuit are set to conform to the target gray scale display characteristics associated with said target gray scale levels". Independent claims 9 and 10 identify the uniquely distinct feature, "the resistance division ratios between the respective resistors making up the resistance-type voltage division circuit are set to conform to the target level shift characteristics and  $\gamma$  characteristics of said target gray scale levels". The closest art, as discussed in the last Office Action dated 2/20/2004, Kamei et al. (USPN:

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5,640,174), discloses a related driving circuit including a voltage dividing resistor circuit for outputting the paired positive and negative voltages, which are made asymmetrical with respect to the center value of the positive maximum voltage and the negative maximum voltage (see fig. 6b, col. 3, lines 6-19), fails to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jimmy H. Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 306-5422. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached at (703) 305-4938. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


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JHN

September 21, 2004



Jimmy H. Nguyen  
Examiner  
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